THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (b): No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) For the 5 medium-sized and 13 small-sized fields, for which the Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) have been signed, the cess and royalty payable as per the PSCs for crude is Rs. 900/ tonne and Rs. 481/tonne respectively. For Natural Gas, royalty is payable at an *ad valorem* rate of 10% and no cess is payble.

Profit Made by ONGC

1967. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the profit made by ONGC in 1996-97;

(b) the percentage rise in the profit in comparision to expectation; and

(c) the steps proposed to boost LPG production to meet the shortages all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The net profit made by ONGC in 1996-97 was Rs. 2033.65 crores.

(b) The increase in actual net profit for the year 1996-97 is 11.47% as compared to the expected profit as per the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the ONGC and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for 1996-97.

(c) The following steps are being taken by ONGC to increase the LPG Production from their existing production facilities located at Uran in Maharashtra and Hazira, Ankleshwar and Gandhar in Gujarat.

1. Upgradation of gas processing facilities in Uran terminal, which is expected to increase the LPG production by about 50,000 tonnes per annum.

2. Upgradation of gas handling and sweetening facilities in Hazira terminal which is expected to increase LPG production by about 30,000 tonnes per annum.

3. After commissioning of Off-gas Compressors under Gandhar Phase II Development, the LPG production has increased by about 35,000 tonnes per annum.

Deep Sea Exploration Programme

1968. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to set up a subsidiary company for deep sea exploration and another for taking up drilling services both within the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations identified under the deep sea exploration programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) ONGC has prioritised three deep water locations for drilling, one in the Kerala-Konkan basins in the Western offshore and one each in the Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins in the Eastern deep offshore.

Strike by Petrol Pump Dealers

1969. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strike of Petrol Pump dealers on 4th August, 1997 regarding the demand of